City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	September 11, 2008
Meeting Date:	September 22, 2008
Subject:	Comment Letter on the Proposal for Adoption of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Growth Management Program Implementation Guide for Measure J

Introduction / Discussion

As part of its transition from Measure C to Measure J, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is updating many of its reference documents. The CCTA is currently seeking comments on its Implementation Guide for Measure J. Staff and the Circulation Commission reviewed the Proposal for Adoption and have provided comments as contained in the draft comment letter to the CCTA, attached. In order to focus the letter on policy issues, comments regarding grammatical edits have not been included. At its September 2, 2008 meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft document (available at the City Offices or on the internet at www.ccta.net) and staff report, attached. Additionally, Martin Engelmann of the CCTA attended the meeting and provided the Commissioners with the opportunity to discuss the guide with him. Councilmember Tatzin, the City's representative to the CCTA subsequently reviewed the table of comments contained in the draft document.

The CCTA has extended the comment period on this document until the end of October due to on-going, related policy discussions occurring at the CCTA. Councilmember Tatzin will separately provide the Council with an update on this matter.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommendation

1. Authorize staff to forward comment letter to the CCTA.

Attachments

1. August 21, 2008 Circulation Commission staff report
2. Draft comment letter to the CCTA

c:\users\lgreenblat\documents\leah's work files\circulation commission\reports to council\2008\ccta implementation guide comments.doc

City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	Circulation Commission
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	August 21, 2008
Meeting Date:	September 2, 2008
Subject:	Review of Proposal for Adoption of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Growth Management Program Implementation Guide for Measure J

Introduction

As part of its transition from Measure C to Measure J, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is updating many of its reference documents. The CCTA is currently seeking comments on its Implementation Guide for Measure J. While staff has only a few comments on the draft document, we thought it would provide Commissioners with greater context in light of future and past discussions regarding the Lamorinda Action Plan, growth management checklists and impacts from new development and cooperative, multi-jurisdictional transportation planning as specified in the measure.

Staff has requested that a representative from the CCTA attend your meeting should you have specific questions about the document.

Discussion

According to CCTA staff, the draft Implementation Guide for Measure J is very similar in content to the guide developed for Measure C; but it has been revised to reflect changes between the two programs. Staff's comments are noted on the pages of the guide which we have included with this report. Primarily these comments suggest minor changes and additions to make the guide more user-friendly and do not reflect changes in policy direction. The cover memo, attached, accompanying the draft guide, notes that some larger policy questions regarding the Growth Management Program have been raised by other jurisdictions and that the CCTA is considering holding a policy workshop this fall. As the outcome of that workshop may result in policy changes that will need to be reflected in this guide, Lafayette staff recommends that the City's comments to the CCTA on this draft include:

ITEM 5A

1. Clarification that the City is withholding its final comment and recommendation pending the outcome of the workshop; and

2. Recommendation that the CCTA re-circulate the draft guide pending the outcome of the policy workshop, if changes are made, prior to the CCTA taking final action on the Implementation Guide.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommendation

1. Recommend that the Council withhold final comments and recommendation pending the outcome of the CCTA's probable, upcoming Action Plan policy discussion.

2. Recommend the CCTA re-circulate the draft document, if applicable, pending the outcome of the CCTA's probable upcoming Action Plan policy discussion

3. Forward any additional comments on the document to City Council for its consideration.

Attachments

1. July 24, 2008 memo from Martin Engelmann, Contra Costa Transportation Authority

2. Measure J Growth Management Program Implementation Guide, Proposal for Adoption, June 18, 2008

CONTRA COSTA
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CITY OF LAFAYETTE
ENGINEERING DEPT.

COMMISSIONERS: *Dave Hudson, Chair* *Janet Abelson* *Susan Bonilla* *Donald P. Freitas* *David Durant*
Federal Glover *Brad Nix* *Julie Pierce* *Karen Stepper* *Don Tatzin* *Maria Viramontes*
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Amy Worth, MTC* *Gail Murray, BART* *Joe Wallace, Bus Operators*

Date: July 24, 2008

To: City Managers, Planning Directors, Public Works Directors, RTPC Managers, Local Planners, and Other Interested Parties

From: Martin R. Engelmann, Deputy Executive Director, Planning

Re: Review of the Proposal for Adoption *Implementation Guide* for Measure J. ***Comments due by Friday, September 19, 2008.***

The Proposal for Adoption *Implementation Guide* for Measure J is currently being circulated for further review and comment. This final draft incorporates comments received on the Draft Guide, which circulated from November 2007 through January 2008. The *Guide* is part of the Authority's comprehensive update of the Measure C Implementation Documents to reflect the changes to the Growth Management Program that Measure J will make when it goes into effect on April 1, 2009.

Outstanding Issues

As prepared, the updated *Guide* reflects relatively modest course corrections that are necessary for local jurisdictions to achieve compliance with the Measure J program. However, it should be noted that TRANSPAC, as well as staff from some local jurisdictions, has raised several larger policy questions relative to the overall Growth Management Program which the Authority should discuss. Those questions primarily concern the appropriateness and nature of the Multimodal Transportation Service Objectives (MTSOs), the Action Plan process, the General Plan Amendment Review process, and how compliance will be judged by the Authority relative to assessing and mitigating the impacts of growth on the regional system. Accordingly, in September staff will ask if the Authority wishes to hold a workshop in October on the policy questions, and defer adoption of the *Implementation Guide* pending completion of that review. Your comments regarding the *Implementation Guide* are directly sought, as well as perspective on the larger policy issues.

The relatively minor changes from Measure C to Measure J incorporated in the draft *Guide* include the elimination of traffic standards for Non-Regional Routes; discontinuation of local standards for fire, police, parks, sanitary services, flooding and water provision; and adding

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Phone: 925-256-4700 Fax: 925-256-4701 Website: www.ccta.net

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Attachment 1

provisions for the Urban Limit Line (ULL). A major focus is helping local staff carry out interjurisdictional cooperative planning through the Regional Transportation Planning Committee (RTPCs) – WCCTAC, TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN, and SWAT. This effort includes preparing Action Plans for Regional Routes, setting quantifiable MTSOs, and implementing local actions to achieve them.

The question of where to set the trip threshold for major development projects and general plan amendments was extensively discussed during Spring 2008. The Authority chose, for the purposes of this circulation draft, to keep the threshold as currently adopted under Measure C. However, this and other issues within the *Guide* are subject to further discussion by the Authority in September and October 2008, and beyond if necessary.

Schedule for Review and Adoption

The Authority has authorized release of the *Implementation Guide* for a 60-day review by the RTPCs and local jurisdictions. ***Comments on the final draft are due no later than Friday, September 19, 2008. Please address your comments to my attention at 3478 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 100 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.*** Authority adoption of the Final *Guide* is scheduled for October 2008 or later.

Should you have any questions regarding this transmittal, or, if you would like Authority staff to make a presentation on the *Implementation Guide*, please do not hesitate to contact me at (925)256-4729 | mre@ccta.net, or Brad Beck, Senior Transportation Planner at (925)256-4726 | *bbeck@ccta.net*]

Attachments:

1. Proposal for Adoption *Implementation Guide* (see List of Recipients for Distribution Information – Also available at www.ccta.net)

File: 4.03.02

cc: Authority Members and Alternates

September 11, 2008

Martin Engelmann, Deputy Executive Director, Planning
Contra Costa Transportation Authority
3478 Buskirk Ave., Suite 100
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Mr. Engelmann:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Proposal for Adoption of your Implementation Guide. Pending the outcome of the CCTA discussions regarding the Growth Management Plan requested by TRANSPAC, the content of the draft 2008 Implementation Guide may need future revision. Until this matter is settled, the City of Lafayette will withhold final comment and recommendation of the document. Pending the outcome of that discussion, the CCTA should re-circulate the draft guide. In the interim, our Circulation Commission and staff have reviewed the document and our comments on the draft are summarized below.

Preliminary Draft Comments on the Implementation Guide Proposal for Adoption June 18, 2008			
Item	**Page #**	**Issue**	**Recommendation**
1.		Mailing list out of date. Mr. Henn no longer works for the City of Lafayette.	Update mailing list
2.	7, paragraph 3	The second sentence could be misconstrued to include only bicycle and pedestrian trail improvements. The intention is to include bicycle, pedestrian and trail improvements.	Revise sentence
3.	13, Table 13, last column	The paragraph describing the actions for Measure J compliance related to Housing Options and Job Opportunities, should use more similar language as is used on	Revise to read, "require demonstration of reasonable progress

Preliminary Draft Comments on the Implementation Guide Proposal for Adoption June 18, 2008			
Item	**Page #**	**Issue**	**Recommendation**
		page 72.	in providing housing opportunities in implementation…"
4.	20	The map showing the routes of regional significance is too small to be legible.	Increase the size to 11x17
5.	27-28,	For the Accommodation of TOD and Accommodation of Infill Development discussions, the examples in Figure 2 are not relevant.	Provide additional examples.
6.	29 & throughout	It is confusing to change terminology. The section heading is entitled "Actions, Measures and Programs," not policies. Refer to actions as actions, not action policies.	Replace the words "action policies" with "actions."
7.	30, paragraph 1	It is unclear who analyzes the actions and what objective is desired to be accomplished.	Re-phrase first sentence to clarify.
8.	30	Land Use Policy #3: how would this work?	Provide an example.
9.	35, f.	Additional clarification is needed: Is it the Action Plan that will have a periodic review in the first sentence? Who needs to agree whether "progress has not been satisfactory"?	Revise and clarify.
10.	37	In the first paragraph, in what situation would development projects "exceed the established threshold for project review" and "not result in an increase in peak hour vehicle trips"? When this occurs how would the analysis "show that the project is consistent with the land use assumptions"? In the second paragraph, how would analysis "show that the GPA is consistent with the adopted General Plan"?	Provide examples and explanation.

Preliminary Draft Comments on the Implementation Guide Proposal for Adoption June 18, 2008			
Item	**Page #**	**Issue**	**Recommendation**
11.	39, Table 3	The table doesn't reflect that the Action Plans for some RTPCs have lower thresholds than have been set by the CCTA. It would be clearer to show the thresholds for each RTPC.	Show the thresholds for each RTPC/
12.	42	Clarify that any one of the three bullet points will suffice.	Add "or" at the end of the first bullet.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft plan. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner, at 925.299.3229.

Thank you again for seeking our input.

Sincerely,

Mike Anderson
Mayor